

REMARKS

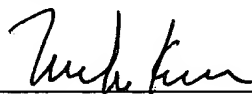
The allowance of claims 1-8 and 15-19 is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, claims 9-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, thereby obviating the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson et al (6,748,218), the rejection of claims 9, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Klein et al (6,707,798) and the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Garrison (6,577,869), such that a discussion of the cited art in relation to the claims which have been canceled is considered unnecessary. Applicants note that Garrison (6,577,869) does not appear to be listed on the Form PTO-892 accompanying the Office Action, and it does not appear that the Examiner acknowledged consideration of the documents submitted under 37 CFR 1.56 at the time of filing of the application.

Since, by the present amendment, only allowed claims 1-8 and 15-19 remain in the application, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40517X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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